

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Several countries including US, UK and Australia have shared with India their approach to the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1718, which was adopted unanimously by the Security Council on October 14, 2006 under Article 41 of Chapter 7 of the UN Charter. The Resolution obliges all member States of the United Nations to adopt restrictive measures in specified areas against North Korea.

Taro Aso Programme for human exchange

1683. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched a programme viz "Taro Aso Programme for Human Exchange" with Japanese Government;

(b) if so, the details of the programme and how many people have been sent to Japan so far under this Programme, during the year 2006; and

(c) the number of applications that are pending and what action are being taken on these pending applications to avoid the loosing of current years Quota?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) During the official visit of Foreign Minister Taro Aso of Japan to India from January 3-4, 2006, the decision of the Japanese side to launch the "Aso Programme", which would involve exchange of 4000 persons over the next three years in the fields of Japanese language, technology, youth interaction, etc., was conveyed. The Indian side expressed its appreciation for this initiative, which would promote people-to-people contacts. The Programme is an initiative of the Government of Japan and is being implemented by the Japanese side.

Pact with China for tourists

1684. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: